

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 23rd January 1886.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
Assamese.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Assam Vilásini"	Sibsagar ...	.....
2	"Assam News"	Ditto ...	450	
Bengali.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
3	"Ahamnadi"	Tangail, Mymensingh..	.....
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
4	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong ...	800	5th January 1886.
5	"Purva Darpan"	Ditto ...	700	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patriká"	Calcutta ...	700	18th ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto ...	102	15th ditto.
8	"Bangabási"	Ditto ...	20,000	16th ditto.
9	"Bháratbási"	Ditto ...	3,000	16th ditto.
10	"Bhárat Mihir"	Ditto ...	2,500	14th ditto.
11	"Bheri and Kushadaha"	Ditto ...	.....	15th ditto.
12	"Burdwán Sanjivani"	Burdwan ...	302	12th ditto.
13	"Cháruvartá"	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	4th ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca ...	450	17th ditto.
15	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	825	15th ditto.
16	"Grámvartá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly ...	500	
17	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	200	
18	"Kamala"	Calcutta ...	.....
19	"Mussulman Bandhu"	Bhowanipore, Calcutta	.....
20	"Murshidábád Patriká"	Berhampore ...	508	
21	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Ditto ...	.....
22	"Nava Medini"	Midnapore ...	.....	16th ditto.
23	"Navavibhákar"	Calcutta ...	1,000	18th ditto.
24	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet ...	450	
25	"Prajá Bandhu"	Chandernagore ...	995	15th ditto.
26	"Pratikár"	Berhampore ...	600	8th ditto.
27	"Purva Bangabási"	Noakholly ...	.....
28	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh"	Kakiniá, Rungpore ...	205	14th ditto.
29	"Sádháraní"	Calcutta ...	812	17th ditto.
30	"Sahachar"	Ditto ...	500	13th ditto.
31	"Samaya"	Ditto ...	2,350	18th ditto.
32	"Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	4,000	16th ditto.
33	"Sáptálik"	Ditto ...	.....
34	"Sáraswat Patra"	Dacca ...	400	9th ditto.
35	"Som Prakásh"	Changripottá, 24-Perghs.	1,000	18th ditto.
36	"Srimanta Saudagár"	Calcutta ...	.....	18th ditto.
37	"Sudhápán"	Ditto ...	.....
38	"Sulabha Samáchar"	Ditto ...	3,000	16th ditto.
39	"Surabhi and Patáká"	Ditto ...	700	14th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
40	"Dainik"	Calcutta ...	7,000	17th to 21st January 1886.
41	"Samvád Prabháhar"	Ditto ...	200	16th to 23rd ditto.
42	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300	18th to 21st ditto.
43	"Samachár Chandriká"	Ditto ...	625	15th to 21st ditto.
44	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Ditto ...	500	
Hindi.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
45	"Kshatriya Pratika"	Patna ...	.....
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
46	"Chumparun Hitakari"	Bettia ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
47	"Behar Bandhu"	Bankipore ...	.....
48	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	1,500	14th January 1886.
49	"Sár Sudhánidhi"	Ditto ...	500	11th ditto.
50	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto ...	4,500	16th ditto.
51	"Hindi Samáchar"	Bhagulpore ...	1,000	
Persian.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
52	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Calcutta ...	250	15th ditto.
Urdu.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
53	"Gauhur"	Calcutta ...	196	
54	"Sharaf-ul-Akhbar"	Behar ...	150	
55	"Al Punch"	Bankipore ...	.....
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
56	"Akhbar-i-darusaltanat"	Calcutta ...	340	8th and 20th January 1886.
<i>Daily.</i>				
57	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	212	15th to 21st ditto.
Urdu.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
58	"Taraka"	Cuttack ...	.....
59	"Shiksábandhu"	Ditto ...	.....
60	"Pradip"	Ditto ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
61	"Utkal Dípiká"	Cuttack ...	200	9th January 1886..
62	"Balasore Samvad Váhika"	Balasore ...	205	7th ditto.
63	"Sebaka"	Cuttack ...	200	9th ditto.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 8th, 1886.

THE *Pratikár*, of the 8th January, says that the English have received a great check in the Soudan. They have not come off with credit from their quarrel with Russia. Theebaw was weak, and so they have dethroned him by means of a hateful alliance with one of his treacherous ministers. They have deprived a nation of its independence in order to promote the interests of English merchants. They are tigers to the weak, but they cringe before the strong. They, for a long time past were entertaining the idea of conquering Burmah. Theebaw, a quiet prince, was, with an interested motive, represented as an inhuman tyrant. But the world proclaims with one voice that the English coveted Burmah, and that they have obtained its possession by various discreditable means. If the English were not greedy of territories, why did they not give Theebaw an opportunity to prove his innocence, and why did they not set up another prince in the place of Theebaw, and why did they honour Tinedah when they knew him to be a great criminal? It was reported that Burmah was all quiet. Why is it not so quiet now? Why does the Burmese General try to oppose the English in the field? The writer does not understand why the English proclaimed annexation at a time when there were so many difficulties in connection with Burmah. Not only the people of Upper, but even those of British Burmah are sorry for Theebaw, and will be glad to see him restored.

2. The *Sárasvat Patra*, of the 9th January, says that the Boundary Commission is returning to India. Rumour has it that even this time the Commission will have to take a circuitous route. This is the outcome of the enormous expenditure on the Pindi Durbar and other things. The Amir does not allow even a few British soldiers to pass through his territories. The Amir has reigned for a long time, and yet his power has not been firmly established. How long is he to be kept on the throne with India's money? Can he not exercise even this much of power over his subjects? The Amir personally of course does not distrust the English. Then why is he so cautious and so circumspect? Does he want to conceal from his countrymen his connection with the English?

SARASVAT PATRA,
Jan. 9th, 1886.

3. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 12th January, says that there is no reason for the conquest of Burmah; and that Burmese officials should not be, as the case has been in India, replaced by highly-paid English officials. The Burmese should have complete autonomy in their own affairs. If an army is to be kept for the preservation of internal peace, and for the defence of the frontiers, there is no necessity for the appointment of Europeans. Theebaw has been made a victim of the treachery of Tinedah Mengyee as Sirajuddullah was of that of Meer Jaffer. General Prendergast has subjected the Burmese King and his Queen to indignities similar to those to which Hastings subjected the Begums of Oudh. The English are lovers of independence. They should not deprive the Burmese of their liberty.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 12th, 1886.

4. The *Sáhachar*, of the 13th January, says that it does not agree with Anglo-Indians, who say that England and India will be placed in a dangerous situation if France, Italy, or Germany is allowed to exercise any authority in Burmah. The writer desires to have France or Russia rather than China and Afghanistan near India. But as Theebaw tried to make the European powers hostile to England, Lord Dufferin did well in interfering. Had France or Germany established its influence in Burmah, there would have been much intrigue. Lord Dufferin has done well in preventing the establishment of French or German influence in Burmah. But the writer cannot approve of the destruction of the independence of a country; mere security

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 13th, 1886.

of person and property and construction of railways and canals cannot make up for the loss of independence. The writer desires that England should make the same arrangements in Burmah that Russia has made in Bokhara and Khiva. A mere dispute with Russia in connection with the settlement of the Afghan boundary has led to an expenditure of 15 crores of rupees. Owing to the short-sighted policy of Lord Randolph Churchill much money is being wasted upon military preparations on the other side of the Indus. Owing to these expenses, expenditure on useful works is being diminished. Can the people approve of expenditure which stops internal improvements, and for which two rivers near the capital which are injuring the health of the people owing to being blocked up cannot be set free. If Russia and France remain near India, the English Government will have to govern India more satisfactorily. From the events which are now happening, it seems that Government has done well in deposing Theebaw. Still, if Burmah is annexed, she will be a burden upon India.

BHARAT MIHIR,
Jan. 14th, 1885.

5. The *Bharát Mihir*, of the 14th January, says that dacoities are increasing not only in Upper Burmah, but in British Burmah also. Cultivators are desert-

Burmah.

ing their fields of ripe corn and labourers are unwilling to work in the fields for fear of the dacoits. To meet the requirements of the situation the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce are urging Government to send more troops to Burmah. But do not the Chamber understand why it is that dacoities have suddenly become so widely prevalent in that country? Why do they now shrink from facing the inevitable consequences of a measure which they themselves urged Government to adopt? An income tax is about to be imposed to meet the cost of the Burmese war; and if military expenditure is to be increased by the despatch of additional troops to Burmah, will the members of the Rangoon Chamber be prepared to furnish Government with the necessary funds?

The state of things is far worse in Upper Burmah, where dacoities are a hundred times more prevalent. Trade is now at a standstill there. Government has, after the occupation of Mandalay, disbanded Theebaw's troops, and these men are now said to have become leaders of the dacoits and to be committing oppressions upon Englishmen. A prince of the Burmese royal family also has risen in revolt and collected a large number of troops and adherents. Whether or not the annexation of Upper Burmah by the British Government is a moral proceeding is altogether a different question, but it would be a great thing if it could smoothly enjoy what it has seized by force.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Jan. 14th 1886.

6. The *Surabhi* and *Patáká*, of the 14th January, says that the occupation of Bhamo by the English is likely to bring about a collision with China.

The conquest of Bhamo.

But the English are slaves to the powerful and tigers to the weak, and so no danger is likely to befall them from the possibility of a collision with that power.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

7. The same paper says that the English have made an easy conquest of Burmah, but it would be very difficult for them to retain that country.

Burmah.

The writer hears of dacoities in that country almost every day. The leaders of the dacoits are either Buddhist priests or noblemen of high family. The English are hunting these down and hanging them everywhere. But will people believe that noblemen and priests will stoop to commit dacoities? The fact appears to be that great heroes, unable to bear the misfortune of their country, are sacrificing their lives for it, and truthful Englishmen are designating them as dacoits, while at the same time proclaiming to the world that they themselves, who have deprived an innocent people of their independence, are angels.

9. The same paper says that native papers are unanimous in their condemnation of the Burmese policy of the English. This has become intolerable to
 Burmah.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
 Jan. 14th, 1886.

certain Anglo-Indian papers. But asks, the writer, have they been able to assign any satisfactory reason for the conquest? It was customary to set forth the causes of any war before its declaration. Even Lord Lytton set forth these causes before declaring the Cabul War. But that has not been done in the present case. The writer is under the impression that no satisfactory reasons could have been assigned for it, and so the Government has acted wisely in remaining silent on that subject. But it has not shown its love of righteousness by so doing. The reasons generally assigned are as follow:—

- (1) The cruelties of Theebaw. But the English have not been appointed as police officers in Asia. When in their own Empire instances of inhuman cruelty are not rare, and they do not make any attempt to check the progress of cruelty, it is unreasonable for them to try to check it in other countries. The cruelties perpetrated by Abdur Rahaman are notorious, and yet he is a friend of the English.
- (2) The attitude of hostility assumed by Theebaw towards the English. One does not assume an attitude of hostility towards another without any reason. Again, when there is any misunderstanding between two parties, one of them has not the right of punishing the other.
- (3) The treaty relations between Burmah and France. The treaty was purely a commercial one. This is not the cause of war, for had it been so, Lord Dufferin would have mentioned it in his ultimatum. If the English have shrunk back from mentioning it in the ultimatum for fear of offending France, it does not speak highly of their truthfulness.
- (4) The treatment of the Burmah Corporations. No English newspaper assigns this as the true cause of the war. The Corporation had undoubtedly stolen timber.

From all this it is evident that greed of territories is the only cause of the war. Burmah has been annexed because the annexation is likely to make English trade prosperous. The Anglo-Indian papers understand this fully, but they often pretend to be righteous for refuting an antagonist. To be just and truthful when there is an advantage to gain by the opposite course and is more than can be expected from Anglo-Indian papers.

10. The *Uchit Vaktá*, of the 16th January, says that when Government has annexed Burmah against the unanimous opinion of Indians, it is a vain effort on their part to advise Government.

UCHIT VAKTA,
 Jan. 16th, 1886.

11. The *Nava Medini*, of the 16th January, says that English merchants are glad if new markets are opened by whatsoever means for their trade, especially

NAVA MEDINI,
 Jan. 16th, 1886.

at a time when trade is dull. This is the reason why they are so glad at the conquest of Burmah. But it is a matter of great regret that the people of India do not as yet know anything of the real cause of the war. The writer cannot admit that the Burmese were anxious for English rule. For if they had been so anxious for it, they would never have rebelled against that rule, the writer thinks that Burmah should not be made a part of the British Indian Empire, but made a Crown colony.

BANGABASI,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

12. The *Bangabasi*, of the 16th January, says that a powerful mountain tribe named Bonerwal attacked the English on the Peshwar frontier, and fought with them for three hours together. Five to seven thousands of English troops will be required to check the progress of these tribes. Ten thousand troops seem to be inadequate for the pacification of Burmah. The Russian difficulty in Central Asia is not yet over. The Czar has already ordered three of the principal Governors of Central Asia to be always ready for probable war with the English. If difficulties arise in every direction the people of India will be ruined in providing the expenses of wars. The income tax is already on the point of being imposed.

The Bonerwals.

BANGABASI.

13. The same paper says that the affairs of Burmah are coming to a crisis. On the 9th January the Burmese fought with a considerable number of English soldiers and defeated them towards the east of Mandalay at the foot of the mountains. In another part of the country four to five thousands of Burmese troops are occupying a strong position. Are these dacoits? It is a shame that ten thousand of English troops cannot check these dacoits. These Rangoon correspondent of the *Bombay Gazette* has rightly said that ten thousand troops are quite inadequate for the purpose. The Burmese King has been deported. The Burmese Minister has been banished the country. The English have proclaimed the annexation of the kingdom. But the Burmese people are impatient. Anarchy is reigning in Burmah. Rebellions in various quarters are being headed by claimants to the Burmese throne. Government says that the cause of the Burmese war is a great secret. The English papers have hitherto depicted Theebaw as a monster of cruelty and of iniquity. But when the Native Press asked what right had the English to punish him, Government changed its tone. The Hon'ble Mr. Hunter said the other day that the native Press do not know the real cause of the Burmese war, and so they can well be discontented with Government; but that if they knew that India would have been in great danger without the annexation of that country, their tone would have been different. As to the danger arising from the Burmese, he adduced the instance of the depredations of the Burmese in Bengal in ancient times.

Burmah.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

14. The *Sanjivani*, of the 16th January, says that Lord Dufferin will go to Mandalay to organise the administration of Burmah. The writer thinks that His Lordship should go to see whether the Pagoda tree grows there, and whether the country can bear the cost of English administration. If Lord Dufferin is prudent he will appoint only one or two high English officials and entrust the Burmese with the greater part of the work of administration. If hot-headed Englishmen are appointed to rule the country, it will never be pacified in a short time. The Burmese are still fighting for their independence. They are being killed by hundreds and yet they are fighting. Mandalay was occupied without bloodshed, but much English blood will be spilt before Burmah is pacified. It would be madness to think that the dethronement of Theebaw has completed the conquest of Burmah. The conquest has only commenced. How long will the English fight with these men? They would do well to place a Burmese Prince on the throne.

Burmah.

SADHARANI,
Jan. 17th, 1886.

15. The *Sadharani*, of the 17th January, says that Dr. Hunter acted as a mediator between Government and the people the other day in connection with the protest of native papers against the annexation of Burmah. Dr. Hunter has explained the real reason for the Burmese war by the statement that "only when the future of a British province was seriously compromised, and after honest and sincere endeavours at an amicable settlement had been frustrated by the folly of the king, did your Lordship's Government resort as

Annexation of Burmah.

the last alternative to war." The Viceroy also has made similar statements. But the writer does not understand that the annexation of Burmah had become absolutely necessary for the security of British dominion in Burmah. Would not the extortion of a favourable treaty have served the purpose of Government? Dr. Hunter has proved from Indian history that India should always be prepared for foreign invasions. Dr. Hunter desires that Indians should support the Burmese policy of government when it has been adopted for their benefit. If the writer could understand that Burmah had been annexed for the benefit of Indians, he would not object. But he is sorry because he thinks that Burmah has been made a burden upon India simply for the sake of the extension of English trade in it.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

16. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 18th January, says that the people of India would not have much minded the annexation of Upper Burmah if the ques-

Burmah.
tion had been only one that involved misery to the Burmese people. But as it will necessitate enormous expenditure, it is feared that the people of this country will be saddled with it. Lord Dufferin has indeed given hopes that for the administration of Upper Burmah, the people of India will not ultimately have to pay anything, but it appears from the statements of Mr. Bernard and of the Editor of the *Bombay Gazette* that there is not much expectation of obtaining a large revenue from that country. Although no one can now correctly state what amount of revenue will be obtained from it, still it is clear that Upper Burmah will not be found as rich as India, and that there is no probability of obtaining wealth by plunder in that country as was obtained in India.

17. The same paper remarks, in reference to the recent fight with the Bonerwals, that the British Government is now encountering difficulties both in Burmah and on the North-Western Frontier of India, and that if the Chinese or any other powerful nation now declares war against England, Lord Dufferin's policy will be successful indeed!

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

18. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 18th January, says that both Lord Dufferin and Dr. Hunter have stated that because Indians do not know the secret reason for the annexation of Burmah they are protesting against that act. Dr. Hunter has said that the constitution of Government in India is such that such secrets cannot be divulged here. The writer says that when the constitution of Government in India is such that such secrets cannot be divulged, the constitution should be changed. A system of government similar to that existing in the colonies should be introduced here.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

19. The *Samvád Prabhákar*, of the 23rd January, says that no Governor-General since the time of Lord Dalhousie ever annexed a foreign country in the manner Lord Dufferin has done Burmah. What was the occasion for sending troops to Burmah and dethroning Theebaw? The people are ignorant of the causes of the war. It was often represented that Theebaw was cruel. But why make war upon him for that? Was it impossible to mend his ways by peaceful means? Even if it was impossible, could not the English have set up another King on dethroning Theebaw? Why deprive the whole family of their rights for the fault of one? What strong ground can there be for annexing the kingdom? The English have done wrong; the result will be disastrous to them. The Anglo-Indian papers, which are in the habit of supporting people in high places, are crying that the natives and the native press alone are finding fault with the annexation. But it should be remembered that natives will never support the annexation of other people's territories by force.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
Jan. 23rd, 1886.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(b).—Working of the Courts.

SANSODHINI,
Jan. 5th, 1886.

20. The *Sansodhini*, of the 5th January, is glad to hear that Baboo Joigopal Sing, the Munsiff of Pomra, has become very popular by administering law with justice. But his work is so heavy that he has often to work till night, which causes great inconvenience to the people.

BHARAT MIHIR,
Jan. 14th, 1886.

21. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 14th January, says that three Magistrates in China, who were in the habit of abusing the suitors in their Court like Mr. Laidman, have been dismissed from the public service of that country. The offence, remarks the writer, for which a magisterial officer in China is punished with dismissal is in India punished with promotion from a Sub-Judgeship to a Judgeship. And the Chinese are an uncivilised people, while the English are civilised! What but promotion could come to Mr. Laidman in consequence of the certificate which the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court gave him?

BHARAT MIHIR.

22. The same paper remarks in reference to the case of Mr. Henry, a European tea-planter of Cachar, who stands charged with the murder of a coolie, and whose case has been directed by the High Court to be tried anew by the Sessions Judge of Cachar, that in the course of the proceedings before the High Court, Mr. Justice Cunningham showed an exceedingly laudable desire of seeing justice done in the case.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

23. The *Sanjivani*, of the 16th January, says that the hearing of the case against Baboo Kedar Nath Basu has come to an end, but that judgment has been reserved. Mr. Anderson asked the police to conduct the case, and it is well known of what materials the police is composed. Baboo Rakhal Dass Mookerjee, Inspector of Police, was entrusted with the prosecution of the case. With the exception of Baboo Sib Krishna Chowdri and his men, the other witnesses rendezvous at a dispensary, where the influence of Rakhal is supreme. It is no wonder that these men should be puppets in his hands. But it is a wonderful thing how he could make even a rich zemindar, like Baboo Sib Krishna, a puppet in his hands.

SOM PRAKASH,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

24. The *Som Prokash*, of the 18th January, referring to the statement of the *Indian Daily News* that it has not yet been decided who will succeed Sir Richard Garth, the writer says that even hostile Anglo-Indians do not deny that the Senior Judge, Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter, is an experienced, impartial, and learned Judge. Does, then, a dark skin, asks the writer, make so much difference?

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

25. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 18th January, referring to the cases of Henry and Gordon of Sylhet, and of a European of Bombay, says that those cases not only furnish evidence of the sort of justice which is administered in criminal courts in this country in cases instituted by natives against Europeans, but give the further information that whereas European criminals in those cases used to be hitherto acquitted or only nominally punished by Judges, and especially by juries, henceforward not only will the European criminals be discharged, but their native accusers will also be punished.

26. The *Navavibhákár*, of the 18th January, in criticising the decision passed by the Assistant Commissioner of Sylhet in the Gordon case, says

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

The Gordon case.

that the Assistant Commissioner did not believe in the witnesses for the prosecution, because they were all relatives of the deceased. But the writer asks whether Mr. Gordon's clerk and his coolie sirdar are not men subordinate to him, and whether the devoted servants of zemindars and planters do not utter falsehoods for the benefit of their masters. Why did the witnesses accompany Umesh to Mr. Gordon's house? Every body living in tea plantations understand why he (Umesh) was called at an unusual hour. It is strange that the Assistant Commissioner, who lives in a district of tea plantations, did not understand this. The writer cannot but think that there was no reason for not committing Gordon to the Sessions. The Assistant Commissioner has been obliged to admit that Gordon tried to shift the responsibility for the murder upon *Sudharani*. Still the Assistant Commissioner believed the two English witnesses, who said that they had not seen Gordon beat Umesh. Has Lord Ripon's resolution on the Webb case become a dead letter? The writer draws the attention of the Chief Commissioner of Assam and of the Viceroy to the following matter. During the last 10 or 15 days the writer has had to write about the alleged oppressions of three planters. The writer does not say that they are all guilty. But it cannot believe that the weak coolies have instituted false suits against the strong planters in order to give them trouble. Nor can it believe in the honesty of those who hold such an opinion. The writer is very uneasy at these things. An enquiry should be made into the matter.

(c)—*Jails.*

27. The *Samaya*, of the 18th January, says that flogging is practised constantly in jails simply to satisfy the brutality of the floggers. Whoever is put to jail, even for a short time for a slight offence, learns only brutality and vicious habits. The writer thinks that morality should be taught in jail.

SAMAYA,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

Moral training in jails.

(d)—*Education.*

28. The *Sansodhini*, of the 5th January, says that it is a shame that the pay of the head-master of the Chittagong College should be Rs. 150 only. Mr. Datta is an able officer, and he has been transferred from a healthy place to become the head-master of a college, and yet no change has been made as regards his pay. The writer thinks that a head-master of a zillah school getting Rs. 300 should have been made the head-master of the Chittagong College.

SANSODHINI,
Jan. 5th, 1886.

The pay of the head-master of the Chittagong College.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

29. The *Sahachar*, of the 13th January, says that there is no ground for Mr. Harrison's apprehension at the numerical superiority of Hindu Commissioners in the Municipality. Since among the population of Calcutta 75 per cent. are Hindus, it is proper that the majority of the Municipal Commissioners should be Hindus also. The mere number of the different classes also should not be the only thing to be taken into consideration. It should be seen how many competent men there are in each class. The number of Hindu Municipal Commissioners is so great, because the number of competent men among Hindus is far greater than among the classes. Mr. Harrison has also complained that the number of lawyers

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 13th, 1886.

Majority of Hindu Commissioners in the Calcutta Municipality.

and of proprietors of lands and houses in the Municipality is unduly great. But wherever the elective system is in existence, the number of lawyers and of proprietors of lands and houses is great. Such has been the case in the last general election in England. The arrangements proposed by Mr. Reynolds have far greater claims to consideration. But the writer does not think that separate representatives are necessary for the national Mahomedan Association or the Chamber of Commerce.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Jan. 14th, 1886.

30. The *Surabhi and Patáká*, of the 14th January, says that the Amalgamation Committee has recommended the entire alteration of the present state of things in the management of the Calcutta Corporation. The Anglo-Indian papers are already performing the obsequies of the municipality. The writer is surprised to find that the people of Calcutta do not stir in the matter as yet. They are going to lose their life. Will they not fight to the last?

The Calcutta Municipality.

(f).—Questions affecting the land.

NAVA MEDINI,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

31. The *Nava Mediní*, of the 16th January, says that it has become difficult for people to preserve their estates owing to the oppressions practised at the time of the realisation of the cesses. Babu Baiknatha Nath Jáná paid his dues into the hands of the nazir, but his application was not ready. Yet the Deputy Magistrate without waiting for the application put his estate to auction, and it was sold up. This Deputy Magistrate is well known to the people of Midnapore for his conduct in the matter of the issue of certificates.

The sale of Baikuntha Nath Jáná's estate.

NAVA MEDINI.

32. A correspondent of the same paper complains that a notice has been issued in the Pataspore thána prohibiting zemindars to use and the tenants to receive any but the receipt form sold by vendors or by the nazir on pain of being fined. The plain inference from this is that receipt forms printed by Government only are to be used. The ignorant tenants have understood the notice to mean this, and have refused to pay rent on receipts written by hand, even if that be in accordance with law. This is working great hardship to many. Even if the tenants agree to pay, the notice holds out a threat of punishment to them. The Act has an express provision that if zemindars make any reasonable alteration in the form of the receipt they will not be punished. But the notice makes no mention of such a provision.

A notice for giving printed receipts for rent.

(g).—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

BHARAT BASI,
Jan. 16th, 1885.

33. The *Bhárat Bási*, of the 16th January, says that the Dattapukur Post Office has recently been removed near the Dattapukur Railway Station, and it can now be approached only by crossing the line; but the Station-Master, afraid of accidents, has ordered that the path for crossing should be closed at all hours except at the train time. The writer therefore prays to the authorities of the Bengal Central Railway to extend the road made by the people of Nibádhai to the Post Office, and to establish a level crossing gate at the point where it crosses the railway.

The Dattapukur Post Office.

DAINIK,
Jan. 20th, 1886.

34. The *Dainik*, of the 20th January, says that the fare for intermediate class in the Tirhoot Railway is double as much as that of the third class. The intermediate class carriages generally have no passengers. Only a few Bengalis travel in that class. The Manager has done well in reducing

The Tirhoot Railway.

the third class fare. He should also reduce that of the intermediate class. This will add to the income of the railway. The conduct of the lower officers of this railway should be the model of those of other railways.

(h)—General.

35. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 4th January, is glad that Baboo Sarat Chandra Dás has got a title for the service he has rendered to Government in Thibet and in China. Bengal should be proud of this.

CHÁRU VARTA,
Jan. 4th, 1886.

36. A correspondent of the *Pratikár*, of the 8th January, complains that several tigers have come to Dedhakunda under the jurisdiction of the Barwa thana. One of these has been killed by the villagers, five of whom were severely wounded by the animal. The writer asks the authorities to come and make some arrangements to kill these ferocious animals.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 8th, 1886.

37. The *Sárasvat Patra*, of the 9th January, thinks that Baboo Tarak Nath Sen, Deputy Inspector of Schools, should be appointed permanently as Assistant Inspector of Schools in the place of Baboo Dinanath Sen. He has for a long time served Government with credit.

SARASVAT PATRA,
Jan. 9th, 1886.

38. The *Sar Sudhánidhi*, of the 11th January, says that the Home Government could not have imposed an income tax in England for the reasons for which the Indian Government is going to impose an income tax in India. As for the statement that a new tax has become necessary owing to the loss from exchange, the writer says that as England and India are both under the same ruler, the rupee may easily be declared to have its former value. As for the statement that a new tax has become necessary for the strengthening of the frontier, the writer says that Government can easily prevent that expenditure by trusting Indians.

SADHARANI,
Jan. 11th, 1886.

39. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 17th January, thinks that the income tax if assessed with proper discretion is preferable to all other forms of direct taxes. But the writer cannot approve of the object with which the tax is being imposed. There is no necessity of increasing the strength of the army at a time of profound peace. Government is very much afraid of a war indeed, but if it places its reliance on the natives it has nothing to fear from Russia. The writer thinks that the minimum of taxable income should be fixed at Rs. 1,000 and not at Rs. 500 a year as proposed. Rupees 500 is the minimum of license tax, but it entails great hardship on many. Great hardship is often experienced owing to the indiscretion of the assessing officers. The income tax was never made permanent. But this time it is going to be made permanent. The rate, though low at present, is very likely to be increased shortly, if Russia makes a further advance. The income tax, though preferable to all other forms of direct taxation, should not be made permanent.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 12th, 1886.

40. The same paper says that Lord Dufferin has spent much of India's money in the Rawal Pindi Durbar, in purchasing the friendship of the Amir, and in the Burmese war, and has published a printed notice all over the land that the famished and rag-clad natives will have to bear all this expenditure. When Lord Dufferin has the support of all the sections of the English Press, his position in India is secure. He is as much a supporter of the white interest as Sir Rivers Thompson is of the Anglo-Indian interest. But Sir Rivers rules only Bengal, while His Lordship's sway extends all over India.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 13th, 1886.

41. The *Sahachar*, of the 13th January, says that it is not a Russo-phobist. Though the writer is in favour of keeping Burmah in check, he is not in favour of the annexation of that country. The writer does not admit that there is any necessity for the imposition of an income tax. A slight increase in the salt duties would have answered the purpose. Government has done a very wrong thing in abolishing the import duties. Had the system of self-government existed in India, the import duties could never have been abolished. Import duties are levied in all the colonies. One-third of the revenue in all of them is derived from import duties. The English Government and the English merchants have no power of interfering in the affairs of the colonies. For this reason the people there are happy. So long as that system is not introduced into India, Indians will be troubled by the English merchants. For this reason the people of India should make efforts for winning the right of self-government like the colonies.

The income tax.

SAHACHAR.

42. The same paper says that Rs. 1,000 should be fixed as the minimum income assessable under the income tax. In England Rs. 1,500 is fixed as the

The income tax.

minimum income assessable under that tax. In a poor country like this fixing of that minimum will not do. But Rs. 500 at which the minimum income assessable under the tax has now been fixed is too low. The writer also says that no special favour should be shown to Government officers in the matter of payment of the tax. The writer thinks that the minimum income assessable under the tax should be fixed at Rs. 1,000, both in the case of Government officers and of other persons. The income tax will of itself cause dissatisfaction. Such partiality to Government officers will increase the dissatisfaction. The sum of 62 lakhs of rupees, which is expected from the imposition of the income tax, could be easily raised by slightly increasing the salt tax. Government can derive an income of a crore and a half of rupees by re-imposing the import duties. But English statesmen have not the courage to dissatisfy the English merchants. Government has said that it will raise the salt tax when necessary. Its philanthropy will not prevent it from doing so when necessary. It will not venture to re-impose the import duties. So much for the philanthropy of Government. Government has shown undue favour to military officers in the matter of the assessment of the tax. Has such favour been shown to military officers, because India has been conquered by the sword, and will have to be maintained by the sword? While a military officer whose annual income is not a single pice less than Rs. 6,000 will be exempted from the tax, a private person, whose annual income is Rs. 500, will have to pay the tax. This is grossly unjust. Indians infer from this that Government greatly fears the military officers. Government is going to destroy its prestige by this arrangement. The writer recommends that Rs. 1,000 should be fixed as the minimum income assessable under the tax in the case of all persons.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 14th, 1886.

43. The *Bhārat Mitra*, of the 14th January, referring to the desire

The Viceroy's speech in the debate on the Income Tax Bill.

expressed by the Viceroy for retrenchments in the course of the debate on the Income Tax Bill, remarks that, if Government now employs educated natives instead of Englishmen on large salaries, the work will be done quite as well, and at the same time Government will reduce expenditure and do its duty by Indians. Referring to the remark of the Viceroy that native papers have protested against the annexation of Burmah because they do not know the secret reasons for the step, the writer says that, if Government had taken the people into confidence, they would not have protested

against that step. So long as Indians are not informed of the real reasons for the step, they cannot approve of it. There are difficulties on the west. Government has again pushed forward the Indian frontier as far as China and Tonquin.

BHARAT MIHIR,
Jan. 14th, 1886.

44. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 14th January, says that while England continues to levy import duties on Indian goods, Government has repealed the import duties which used to be formerly levied on English goods. This has placed serious obstacles in the way of Indian trade and manufacture, and India will never prosper until this wrong is redressed.

The import duties.

BHARAT MIHIR.

45. The same paper says that it will be very hard if persons possessed of a monthly income of Rs. 41-10-8 only are required to pay a tax of more than

The income tax.

Rs. 10. Unless the rigour of the proposed income tax law is mitigated by exempting all persons in receipt of incomes under Rs. 1,200 a year from liability to the tax, or by assessing all incomes to the tax after deducting Rs. 500 from the income of every individual therefrom, considerable hardship will be caused to respectable but poor natives. It is exceedingly desirable that the distinction made in the Bill in favour of Government officials and military officers should be removed.

BHARAT MIHIR.

46. The same paper says that considering that Government is resolved upon imposing an income tax, there is not much use of showing that there is no necessity for the proposed measure. But as those who are not acquainted with the facts might be easily misled by Lord Dufferin's statement that no other course was open to Government, and that the proposed measure has the support of the Bombay National Conference, the Editor thinks it necessary to say a few words on the subject. Of course, nobody has the power to oppose the levy of an income tax if it has been decided upon, but the writer cannot bear the idea that the people should be persuaded to regard an unjust impost as a just one.

The income tax.

It is not the purpose of the writer to discuss in this place the question whether Government was justified in incurring the military expenditure which it has already incurred. It is idle to quarrel over an accomplished fact. But one of the contemplated measures for the adoption of which Government finds it necessary to provide increased expenditure is still completely under its control, namely, the increase of the Indian army by ten thousand troops. Who does not understand that this step is perfectly unnecessary? It will not add materially to the military strength of the Indian empire. Considering that British rule is firmly established in this country, and that the native princes are quite ready, whenever occasion arises, to assist Government with their own troops, it becomes evident that instead of increasing, the time has rather come for reducing the number of troops in the service of Government. The income tax would not be at all necessary if an increase of the army were not resolved upon. Both Lord Dufferin and the Finance Minister have pointed out the injustice of taxing particular sections of the people, while others do not pay any tax. If it is considered unjust to tax certain classes only of the population, why not repeal the license tax at once? Sir Auckland Colvin has himself shown that a poor country like India is not suited for direct taxation, and the fact that the proceeds of the license tax, even in its extended form, will not exceed 62 lakhs of rupees a year, furnishes irrefragable proof of the unsuitableness of direct taxation in the case of India. Government might easily and without injustice reduce the salaries of its highly-paid officials, and thus effect considerable savings. The days when it was necessary to grant high salaries to European officials have gone by. Let Government reduce the pay of these officials and see whether

able men do not come forward to enter its service. If able men are not found willing to serve it on reduced pay, the people of India will not object to pay income tax. Even if they do object, Government may then well afford to disregard their objections. But this, it seems, cannot be. If retrenchments are to be made, it is the 20-rupee clerks that are made victims. Then, again, the cost of the annual exodus of the Governor-General and the Local Governments to the hills may well be saved by discontinuing the practice. Another course open to Government for increasing its revenues is the re-imposition of the import duties. These duties were abolished on plea of free trade principles, which, it seems, have no force in England, which levies an import duty on Indian goods. It is not true that the Bombay National Conference has supported the proposal to levy an income tax. Lord Dufferin has sought to throw dust into the eyes of the public by quoting only one part of the proposal made by the Conference.

URDU GUIDE,
Jan. 14th, 1886.

47. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 14th January, says that there was no one to advocate the cause of Indians in the debate on the Income Tax Bill in the Council.

The income tax.

The writer is sorry that the opinion of the people has not been taken about the imposition of a tax which will be imposed upon them. The writer may agree to the imposition of an income tax if Government agrees to abolish the tax as soon as the state of its finances becomes satisfactory.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Jan. 14th, 1886.

48. The *Surabhi* and *Patáká*, of the 14th January, learns from a confidential source that the Secretary of State has refused to sanction the scheme

The volunteering movement.

for the enrolment of natives as volunteers. He did not consider it reasonable to grant a privilege for which the people of all the provinces prayed. Government has studiously suppressed the result of the memorial for enrolment, for its publication is sure to create discontent. But truth must come out. Government has not succeeded in suppressing the unpleasant truth that it distrusts the educated and respectable classes of the community. Now the writer wants to see in what spirit these classes accept the refusal of Government.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

49. The same paper says that Lord Lytton was the worst Governor-General of India. But the seeds of national unity were sown in his time. The seeds

National unity.

began to shoot during the Ilbert Bill agitation. The days of Lord Lytton have come back. People are hearing of many unheard-of things during Lord Dufferin's administration and during the ascendancy of the Conservatives in England, and their spirit of unity is becoming stronger. Mr. Cotton in his new India says that it is in the hands of Government either to use the new national spirit in its favour or against it. The writer heartily wishes that Government should use it against it, for competition is sure to foster the new spirit. What can people expect from the favour of Government? It will simply confirm them in their slavery. The writer wants a spirit of national self-help. A nation can never rise without that spirit. Government has no power to arrest the progress of national degeneration.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

50. The same paper, in noticing the speech of Sir Rivers Thompson

Sir Rivers Thompson's speech at the Madrisa.

at the Calcutta Madrisa, approves his plan of getting the best men for the public service by competitive examination irrespective of caste and creed. But, says the writer, Government should try its best to spread education among those races who are backward in it.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

51. In noticing the amalgamation of the District and Post Office Savings Banks, the same paper urges the claims of the low-paid officers of the Postal

Officers in the Postal Department.

Department who have to work very hard owing to the amalgamation of many departments with the Post Office. The number of officers has not increased with the increase of work, nor has their remuneration been increased. The writer asks these officers to make their grievances known to the Postal authorities.

52. The same paper says that Mr. Chapman was under the impression that the low rate of exchange was favourable to India, and so he advised Government

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Jan. 14th, 1886.

The Exchange question.

to pursue a policy of *laissez faire* in this respect. But it is a matter of congratulation that the eyes of Sir Auckland Colvin and of Mr. Hope have at last opened. They are opposed to low rate of exchange. The writer hopes that other members of the Council will try to do their best to remedy the evils caused by the loss by exchange. The loss is so great that the proceeds of the income tax and of the license tax will cover only a third of it. But if any means for preventing this loss is discovered, the retention of these taxes will be no longer necessary.

53. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 15th January, does not understand the meaning of holding the Camp of Exercise at a great expense at a time of financial difficulty. What is the good of displaying military force? When an enemy will attack India he is sure to weigh his own military power with that of India.

ARYA DARPAN,
Jan. 15th, 1886.

The Camp of Exercise.

54. The same paper does not consider the imposition of the income tax to be absolutely necessary. The reimposition of the import duties could have brought much more to the treasury than the income tax. But Government cannot adopt that course for fear of Manchester. The people of India are so unfortunate that their Government would look more to the interests of Manchester than theirs. Lord Dufferin of course took an oath before the Queen to govern India with justice. But is sacrificing the interests of the people to those of Manchester justice?

ARYA DARPAN.

The income tax.

55. The same paper says that Government promises to govern India for Indians. If so, why are not natives more largely employed in the work of administration? Government promises that high appointments will be given to natives, but at the time of giving such appointments they give them only to Europeans. There is no money in the treasury, and so the income tax is going to be imposed. But if Government employs natives more largely, much money can be saved.

ARYA DARPAN,
Jan. 15th, 1886.

Breach of promise.

56. The *Bheri*, of the 15th January, says that Sir Auckland Colvin pretends to be very kind to the poor. He does not like to re-impose the cotton duties, because in that case the poor will not be able to get cheap cloth. But during the course of his speech he has expressed the real cause of his unwillingness to re-impose these duties. He says that when the mills in India are so numerous and considerable, these duties cannot be re-imposed. Sir Auckland has reiterated his sentiment that he is going to impose the income tax from a consideration of justice, because he thinks that the poor are overtaxed, and the rich escape all taxation. The writer would have admired his benevolence if by taxing the rich he could have relieved the poor. But he is not giving any relief to the poor; on the other hand, he holds out a prospect of increasing their salt duty, and he wants to tax the rich also. Sir Auckland thinks that the country has grown enormously rich under the English rule. But the writer does not understand how. Sir Auckland has expressed his great displeasure with newspapers. He thinks that the editors get enormously rich without paying any tax. Perhaps he thinks of putting

BHERI,
Jan. 15th, 1886.

The income tax.

them down. The editors will not be sorry, if he imposes a new tax on newspapers, and relieves the poor.

PRAJA BANDHU,
Jan. 15th, 1886.

57. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 15th January, does not admit that there is any necessity for imposing a fresh tax, especially at a time when people are suffering from distress caused in various ways. The writer says that if there is any just reason for fear, the people will assist their Government with their life-blood. Lord Ripon bound the people in ties of affection, and at the time of the last Russian advance they were quite ready to fight under his standard. If Lord Dufferin could show as much sense of justice, there would be no necessity for increasing the strength of the army. Reduction means depriving a few clerks of their bread. When Lord Dufferin is inspired by a consideration of justice, he should sacrifice a portion of his pay, and thereby save many poor men. If he means to do justice, he should impose indirect taxes. But he cannot re-impose the cotton duties for fear of Manchester. He cannot enhance the salt tax because that is to serve as a reserve source of revenue for times of difficulty, that is when war will break out between England and Russia.

58. The *Bangabási*, of the 16th January, thinks that Government is aware that a native gentleman can with difficulty manage his family affairs with Rs. 100

BANGABASI,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

a month, and so it has proposed to exempt those of its officers who get less than that amount in the month. The writer does not understand why Government does not show the same consideration towards the servants of other people. He thinks that if the matter is properly explained, it will listen to the arguments of the non-official members of the Council. The writer cannot gather from the Bill in what way joint undivided Hindu families are to be taxed. If there be three earning members of an undivided family, and the aggregate income of these amount to Rs. 42 a month, will the family be taxed? The Bill is silent on this point. The perusal of the sub-section (d) of the section 5 has astonished the writer. The natives are not in the habit of driving away their fathers, mothers, and brothers as soon as they can earn their livelihood. One earns and divides his earnings among all the members of his family. Under such circumstances, he is anxious to know how and at what rate does Government intend to assess these families. The writer thinks that Government should be explicit on this point. Otherwise the operation of this sub-section will entail great oppression on joint families, and people will infer that one of the objects of the Bill is to oppress certain sections of the community. Section 23 also is likely to be a source of oppression and injustice. The question is whether house-rent amounting to less than Rs. 500 will be taxed at all. In towns the mode of municipal assessment prevailing in this country has fixed the annual letting value of houses to a great extent. But how is that value to be determined in villages where even large houses costing lakhs do not fetch even Rs. 10 a month? The assessors are not likely to do justice in cases like these. So in enacting this section Government should take the question of houses in villages into its consideration. Those who live on their income from land have been exempted from taxation under this section, because they have to pay in various other ways. The writer thinks that on the same principle the house-owners in towns also should be exempted as they have also to pay municipal and other taxes.

BANGABASI,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

59. The same paper remarks that Lord Lytton said:—"We Lord Lytton and Sir Auckland have pledged ourselves not to spend one rupee of the special resources thus created upon works of a different character." Alluding to this speech of Lord Lytton, Sir Auckland Colvin has said "Lord Lytton was its sponsor,

and if he promised and vowed more things in its name than it was ever likely to accomplish, he did no more than sponsors daily do, and must be held in no greater degree responsible." In another part of his speech Sir Auckland has said:—"There can be no such thing as a distinct fund forming part of general revenues and yet independent of our general revenues." Whether Sir Auckland is prepared to admit the existence of a distinct fund or not, the explanation given by the Secretary of State in Parliament appears to be more candid. He says:—"It is perhaps more honest and straightforward to say that to all intents and purposes the famine insurance has been swallowed up by the peculiar demands of the year." Though the English Minister showed honesty, the civilian Indian Minister could not. It would have been well for him if he had kept silent. But instead of following that prudent course he has tried to explain away Lord Lytton's pledge. The Finance Minister can boast of showing to the world that the representative of the Queen in India tried to deceive people by giving them a false assurance, but the writer cannot feel himself satisfied with this sort of thing. He cannot absolve the Finance Minister and the Government of India from the guilt of breaking a solemn pledge.

60. The *Uchit Vaktá*, of the 16th January, says that an income tax is not necessary if Government spends money in a proper manner, and that otherwise the imposition of an income tax is necessary.

UCHIT VAKTA,
Jan. 16th, 1886

61. The *Bhārat Bāsi*, of the 16th January, says that at the present financial crisis the Government of India cannot help imposing the income tax. But the writer has something to say as to the details in regard to the realisation of it. He thinks that salaries below Rs. 1,200 a should not be taxed, and that the minimum of all other taxable income should be fixed at Rs. 750 instead of Rs. 500. Government has, in the hope of making the stock notes popular, exempted the income arising from these notes from taxation while taxing the income arising from Government securities. But it has made a mistake. Many live on the interest of Government securities, and their income does not in many instances exceed Rs. 500 a year. It would be hard if they have to pay taxes on their small income. They can of course obtain exemption by obtaining a certificate from the Collector. But to obtain such a certificate, a man must have to undergo all the hardships of conducting a civil suit.

BHARAT BASI,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

It appears from the Bill that those who take interest on their securities from the Secretary of State will be exempted. Government seems to be very much afraid of English merchants. It has tried its best to secure exemption for them. But since they receive India's money, and since any danger to India will make them losers, they should also pay for India. It may be argued that they pay taxes in England. Well, says the writer, in that case the tax paid in England on the interest of Indian securities should be credited to India. The Bill seems also to contemplate the exemption of those Indian officers who get their pay, pension, or allowance in England. This is not just. This also betrays that Government is afraid of them. The Collector has been made the supreme authority with regard to the assessment of this tax. The work of assessment is always attended with oppression. The assessors generally oppress people with the hope of obtaining bribes. They assess people for a higher sum than is warranted by their real income, and so people have to propitiate them with bribes. The experience of the license tax and of the income tax shows that cases of bribery and corruption will not be rare. The higher officers do not punish corrupt assessors. The prevalence of corruption in the matter of assessment has been

admitted by the Finance Minister, but he has made no arrangement for preventing it. The Viceroy and the Finance Minister are under the impression that oppression is not practised in the matter of the assessment of the license tax. But they seem to be ignorant of the real state of things.

BHARAT BASI,
Jan. 16th, 1886

The same paper says that the English have been ruling India for a century and getting rich, and becoming Nabobs at the expense of the natives, but their hatred

Race hatred.
for the ruled has not yet diminished. This is really much to be regretted. Race hatred will never die out until the Anglo-Indians give up their pride.

BHARAT BASI

62. The same paper says that the native press has incurred the displeasure of Government for opposing the annexation of Burmah. A member of the Viceregal Council has not failed to use threats against it. The writer is sorry that the Hon'ble Mr. Hunter held out a distinct threat. The native press protested against the annexation only for the good of Government. Government may be displeased now, but it will in the long run see that the native press has acted the part of a friend.

The native press and the Government.

URDU GUIDE,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

63. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 16th January, says that the recommendation of the Education Commission that special favour should be shown to Mussulmans as regards appointment to the public service is just. The condition of Mussulmans will not improve if this is not done. Hindus should be appointed in no case in which eligible Mussulman candidates can be obtained.

Appointment of Mussulmans to the public service.

NAVA MEDINI,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

64. The *Nava Medini*, of the 16th January, does not understand that portion of the Viceroy's speech in which he says that direct taxation is not new to India, and that people have up to this time paid the license tax without murmur. The writer cannot admit that this is the true state of things. The writer thinks that Lord Dufferin has imposed the tax on all without making any distinction of race. The writer cannot approve the provision of the Bill which fixes the minimum of taxable income at Rs. 1,200 for Government officers and at Rs. 500 for others. He thinks it would be hard if the tax be imposed on men having an income of Rs. 500 a year. The Bill has not made any provision for fixing the minimum of taxable income arising from Government securities. Are the people to infer that any income arising from that source is taxable? If so, it will press hard upon many. The pleaders and muktears pay a certain sum every year at the time of renewing their license. Lord Dufferin has said that the tax will be imposed only on those who do not pay the license tax, such as pleaders, doctors, and so on. But the pleaders actually pay a license tax. Why, then, should they not be exempted? The writer thinks that the license fee of the pleaders and others should be deducted from the amount of their income tax.

The income tax.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

65. The *Sanjivani*, of the 16th January, says that the Ranipet fort was repaired at a great cost for the residence of Theebaw, but the project of interning that monarch there has been abandoned. The English waste money in this way and impose fresh taxes. It has been proposed to pension off Sir Richard Garth before the period of his service is over, at the instance of some bad Anglo-Indians. This is another instance of wasteful expenditure. Crores have been spent on the Rawal Pindi Durbar, and the Amir's friendship is being purchased by constantly supplying him with money, with arms, and with ammunition. The Camp of Exercise, in which European military men have been invited to attend, is another item of wasteful expenditure.

Extravagant expenditure.

66. The same paper is glad to hear that the Government of Bengal has asked for a report whether the lower officers in Government offices bear any relation to any

Nepotism in Government offices.

of the higher officers. This is a move in the right direction. Influence and recommendation often fill up offices with inferior men. If Sir Rivers Thompson can remove this evil system without making distinction of colour, then able men without patrons will have some chance of getting the lower appointments.

67. The same paper says that Lord Dufferin differs greatly in his character from his two immediate predecessors.

Lord Dufferin.

He does not resemble the good Ripon, but probably he does not resemble even Lytton. He could not have deprived the press of its freedom, but he could not with alacrity restore that lost freedom to it. Then what Governor-General does he resemble most in character? The writer is very much afraid of naming the Governor-General whom he resembles. Lord Dufferin resembles Lord Dalhousie—the father of the annexation policy. The names of both the Viceroy's begin with D.

68. The same paper says that in England incomes below Rs. 2,000 are exempted from the income tax, but in this country the taxable minimum has been fixed

The income tax.

at Rs. 500. Is there no remedy for this? Sir Auckland Colvin pretends to be very kind to the poor. If so, he should never have taxed those whose income fall short of Rs. 1,200 a year. Those who get more than Rs. 500 by renting their houses have been made liable. This is wrong, as house-rent already bear a heavy municipal tax. Perhaps this has been done on the same principle as the Imperial license tax is levied from those who already pay a municipal license tax. But the principle is wrong.

69. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 17th January, in noticing the expression in Lord Dufferin's speech that justice is an inhabitant neither of the east nor

Lord Dufferin's justice.

of the west, asks where is the home of that justice which lowered the standard of age in the Civil Service, which spends more than half the revenues of India in paying the English officials, which makes a distinction of race in the administration of justice, which enacted the Press Act and the Arms Act, which has destroyed the independence of Burmah, which has forced an addition of 10,000 European soldiers upon the people of India, which is ready to impose the income tax, and which is blind to the oppressions practised by tea-planters?

70. The same paper says that the rural sub-registrars appear to be the disinherited children of Government. They get neither pension nor leave, nor travel-

Rural sub-registrars.

ling expenses when transferred. Their work is becoming heavier every day. Government has done some thing for Deputy Magistrates, for munsiffs, for higher class clerks, but it has done nothing for rural sub-registrars.

71. The same paper is not very glad to hear that Government will appoint a Commission for making retrenchments, for it is under the impression that it

Retrenchments.

will not be able to reach the root of the disease; that it will simply ruin a number of low-paid officers. If Government is sincerely desirous of reducing expenditure, it can be done easily in the following way.

Government spends 17 crores for the army. This is waste of money in a loyal country. Over and above 17 crores, it is going to add 10,000 to the number of its troops, and it is also going to erect strong forts in the North-Western frontier.

The Secretary of State spends 22 crores on behalf of India, and India loses a good deal by way of exchange. Better arrangements for exchange might be made. But that is not going to be done.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

SANJIVANI.

SANJIVANI.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 17th, 1886.

DACCA PRAKASH.

DACCA PRAKASH.

The Secretary of State and his establishment cost a good deal. The pay of the Governor-General can be reduced to Rs. 15,000 a month, and Bombay and Madras can be governed by Lieutenant-Governors in the same way as Bengal, causing a saving of more than four to five lakhs.

SADHARANI,
Jan. 17th, 1886.

72. The *Sádháraní*, of the 17th January, says that though the income tax is so objectionable, the writer is glad at its imposition, because those for-

The income tax.

eigners who get rich with Indian money, and pay nothing, will come within its scope. The Viceroy and Sir Auckland Colvin said that they would prevent by the imposition of that tax any person from evading taxation. But it is a matter of regret that this has not been provided for in the Income Tax Bill. By the Bill some persons, such as military officers, whose salaries are less than Rs. 500, and Government officers, whose salaries are less than Rs. 100 a month, have been unjustly exempted from the tax. The writer considers the income tax to the best of all direct taxes. In England, persons having an annual income of Rs. 1,300 alone are liable to pay the income tax. Why should it be otherwise in India? Government has been placed in difficulties owing to expenses for strengthening the North-West frontier and for the unjust Burmese war. Where will Government obtain money from if not from the people? But people should not be required to pay more than they can.

SADHARANI.

A new Bill.

73. The same paper gives the following provisions of what is pretended to be a new

Bill :—

1. If at any time owing to the carelessness of an English Collector money is embezzled from any Government treasury, the salary of the subordinate Native Deputy Collector shall be cut, and the Collector shall be promoted and transferred to another district.

2. Any white worthy may shoot down a native for the sake of fun or amusement, or for the purpose of seeing how a dark native dies. If any relative of the deceased institutes any suit for this, he, and if any witnesses give evidence on his side, such witnesses also shall be committed for perjury.

3. If upon being entrusted with the superintendence of any jail, any white man kills any prisoner the dead bodies of such killed men should be immediately removed by mehters.

4. If any white worthy while in a boat throws over a boatman into the stream by kicking him with his shod foot, and if such boatman dies in consequence of that, and if any one among the boatmen institutes a suit before a Magistrate, then each of such boatmen shall be whipped with five stripes.

5. If any white indigo-planter forcibly scatters indigo seeds in the cultivated field of any person, Government shall, on the apprehension of a breach of peace, protect such indigo crops with the help of the police. The police shall attend so long as the crops do not become ripe and are not sent to Calcutta in boxes. The costs of police attendance shall be paid by the occupier of the field.

6. If any white planter forcibly brings any woman of the village to the factory after evening, and if the police comes to know of this any how, the police shall keep the guardian of such woman in the thana.

7. If in a second or third class railway carriage any Englishman throws out a native by pushing or kicking, or gives such native a few blows, the guard or the station master shall get the Englishman admitted into a first class carriage. The wounded man shall pay the excess fare.

8. European and Eurasian school boys shall get free railway tickets

for Darjeeling or for Mussoorie, English school masters also shall obtain such free tickets. Government will pay the prices of such tickets from the Eurasian Education Fund.

74. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 18th January, says that Government will have to raise the money that has been spent upon the Burmese war. It will have

SOM PRAKASH,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

The income tax.

also to be prepared for a disturbance on the Chinese frontier. It will have also to check the Burmese dacoits and the wild tribes near Peshawur. It will have also to be prepared for a Russian invasion of India. Money is necessary for all this. For this reason the income tax is going to be reimposed. Indians suffered once before oppression arising from the income tax. Indians then unanimously protested against it. Lord Dufferin wishes to make the income tax a permanent source of revenue. Every statesman understands that a direct tax like the income tax is unsuited to India. A careful perusal of the Income Tax Bill will convince any body that there is much that is partial and calculated to cause oppression in it. Government officers drawing salaries of less than Rs. 100 per month have been exempted from the tax. But private persons whose salaries, or whose salaries combined with the income that can be derived from their dwelling-house, amount to Rs. 500 per year will have to pay the tax. Supposing that a person draws a salary of Rs. 30, and that he can, after deducting 10 per cent., derive an income of Rs. 12 per month from renting his ancestral dwelling-house, if he chooses to live under the shelter of a tree, the man will have to pay the income tax. On the other hand, a Eurasian drawing a salary of Rs. 99-15-9 will be exempted from the tax. Government has not tried to mitigate oppression arising from the income tax. On the contrary it has unjustly exempted Eurasians and military officers from the tax and provided for its imposition upon the poor. For this reason so much clamour is being made against the imposition of the tax. If Government really wants some money, it may obtain it by reducing expenditure and by levying duties upon articles of luxury.

75. The same paper, referring to Government's intention to make salt unfit for human use and yet suited for the consumption of cattle and for manure, says that this will lead to an increase in the

SOM PRAKASH.

Preparation of salt for the use of cattle and for use as manure.

price of salt and thus cause suffering to the poor. Government should rather make arrangements for providing salt for cattle and for agricultural purposes by lowering its price.

76. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 18th January, says that the people have no right to ask why Government wants money, but Government has full

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

The income tax.

right to tax them when it wants money. Government wants 70 lakhs of rupees, so the people must pay it whether they die or live, whether they have food to eat or not, whether there be plenty or scarcity in the country. And people must not only pay it, but pay it in the form which Government prescribes. But that Government has fixed upon the income tax for realizing what it wants instead of resorting to any other means shows that it has done a favour to the people. For if the 70 lakhs of rupees, which Government wants, were raised by any other means than an income tax, the burden of paying it would fall, if not wholly at least mainly, upon the people of this country. If the money had been raised by slightly increasing the salt tax, the whole burden would have fallen upon the people of this country. If the import duties had been re-imposed, the Manchester merchants would have shifted the burden of payment from their shoulders to those of the people of this

country by increasing the price of piece-goods. Government could have raised the money by reducing expenditure, but when Government reduces expenditure, it simply stops those works by the prosecution of which this country is benefited, and it only injures the people of this country. Thus the people of this country would probably have suffered if Government had raised the money it wants by any of the means suggested above. An income tax alone saves the people from much injury which otherwise would have to be borne by them alone. It is not of course meant that an income tax will not injure the people of this country at all. What is meant is that comparatively it will not injure them much, and although it will do them some injury, it is probable it will also do them some good. It has been shown by the results of previous income tax operations that the incidence of that tax upon the people of this country falls upon one man in thirteen hundred. A tax with so light an incidence is the best for the people of this country. But this is not the only recommendation of an income tax. Almost all Europeans in this country are rich, so the incidence of the tax will fall almost upon all of them. Thus an income tax will be free from the injustice and partiality characterizing all other taxes in this country which fall heavily upon the natives, and do not almost touch Europeans. When an income tax was levied on former occasions, the hand of the Government was thrust as much into the pockets of the natives as into those of Anglo-Indians. A friendship and alliance therefore sprang up between the two classes, they acted jointly against the Government, and such Anglo-Indian newspapers as the *Daily News*, the *Englishman*, and the *Pioneer* were on terms of friendship with native newspapers. A similar alliance between natives and Anglo-Indians may be expected to be established if an income tax is again imposed. As an income tax touches the pockets of Government officials, it offers a strong inducement to them to avoid it by curtailing public expenditure as was done by Sir George Campbell. This leads to the abolition of superfluous appointments in the public service. Expectations of this kind may be again entertained if an income tax is imposed. It is desirable that the income tax should become permanent in this country, and efforts should be made by the people of this country to make it such. For, as it will affect Englishmen, no opportunity will be missed on their part to abolish it.

AWANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

76. The same paper says that the policy which Lord Dufferin has adopted in this country, far from satisfying natives, is of a kind calculated to hurt their feelings, and excite in their minds other than feelings of esteem and respect for himself. But he knew that it was a policy which was pleasing to both Anglo-Indians and the people of England. But in introducing the Income Tax Bill into his Council, he threw himself between two dangers. His policy has displeased the natives, and competent judge, as he is, of the character of his own countrymen, he knows that, however they may be pleased with that policy, they will not like to see his finger in their pockets. If he therefore becomes unpopular with his own countrymen, the thought must have probably seriously exercised him, how he is to go on. But he is a great man and having played successfully with the principal political men of Europe, he undoubtedly believes that he will be able to play with perfect ease with Indians and Anglo-Indians. So he resolved upon two things when he determined upon an income tax: first, that he would impose the tax with the consent of Anglo-Indians; and second, that he would avail himself of the opportunity to explain to Indians that he was a friend of theirs, and that the aim and object of every policy that he had hitherto adopted was their good. It was for this purpose that he alluded to the

Lord Dufferin's speech on the income tax.

great military preparations on the North-Western frontier, the preparations that are being made to increase the strength of the army, the diversion of the Famine Maintenance Fund to other purposes, the war with and annexation of Burmah, and the Rawul Pindie Durbar, and also expressed his regret at not having been able to devote his attention to the internal administration of the country. But although no Indian possessed of a grain of sense will oppose an income tax, still it is doubtful, for two reasons, whether they will be much influenced by the arguments used by Lord Dufferin to reconcile them to its imposition. They will remember, if not at once, at least by and bye, that whenever the British Government or an official has tried to win them with soothing words, some mischief or other has befallen them. Since the promulgation of the charming proclamation of the Queen, on the occasion of her assumption of the government of this country, India's misery has commenced. Amongst recent Governors-General, Lord Mayo made a charming speech after his arrival in this country, and it was during his administration that Mr. Stephen placed what might be called fetters of slavery upon millions of natives. Lord Lytton wrote a charming resolution on the Fuller case, but Lord Dufferin is perhaps aware of the miserable plight to which Lord Lytton reduced India. Consequently if Lord Dufferin's charming speech excite apprehensions in the minds of Indians, he will not be able to blame them.

77. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 18th January, says that this time the income tax is to be permanently imposed.

The income tax.

Because during the last eight years Indians

have paid the license tax, and because there has been no disturbance in any place, in consequence of the levying of the tax, the license tax has been converted into an income tax. Mr. Evans apprehends that there will be oppression in connection with assessment of the tax. The writer too entertains similar apprehensions. Whether there will be oppression or not will wholly depend upon the character of the men who will be employed to make assessments. There will be oppression if competent men are not appointed on proper salaries. Because it is very easy for officials to commit oppressions in a conquered country, the writer is so much alarmed. Oppression will not be prevented, if the minimum annual income assessable under the tax is not fixed at Rs. 1,200 in the case of private persons, as it is at present in the case of Government officers. Provisions have been made in the Bill for the deduction of income tax from the interest of Government securities and debentures. Thus some persons who have benefited Government and municipalities by loans will be made to pay the tax, because they are now in the power of Government. If such injustice is done, men will not venture to lend money to Government or municipalities in future. The provision also that those who will be able to satisfy the Collector by the production of certificates that their whole income, inclusive of interest on Government securities, is less than Rs. 500 will be exempted from the tax, will not benefit poor and helpless women possessing Government securities. No one will take any trouble for them. Consequently if their annual income is less even than Rs. 100, the tax will be deducted from the interest payable to them. The Bill provides that notices will not be served individually upon persons having an annual income of less than Rs. 2,000, but that a general notice, a list of the names of such persons will be kept in the Collector's office. The writer recommends that such a general notice with such a list should be kept in every thanna. Lands used for the purpose of cultivation have been exempted from the tax, because they are already subject to taxation. Upon the same principle dwelling-houses for which men have to pay municipal

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

taxes, should be exempted from the tax. When men derive no income from their dwelling-houses, such houses should not be subjected to the income tax. Rented houses also should be exempted from the tax. In ascertaining men's income, the rent they derive from rented houses will be included. Why then will they be required to pay tax for their rented houses again? These provisions should be left out. The Bill also provides that when a notice has been sent to a person by post, it will be presumed that it has been served upon him. But the Editor, who has to write many letters to persons in the mofussil has found that letters even when rightly directed on many occasions do not reach the right place or the right person.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

78. The same paper is rather surprised at Sir Auckland Colvin's attempt to make Indians believe by false reasoning that the abolition of the import

duties has been beneficial to them. The writer has repeatedly shewn that by the free trade principle England alone is being benefited and not India. The English Government has not been able to abolish the import duties in any of the colonies. In no colony is the income derived from import duties less than one-third of the whole revenue. England cannot introduce free trade principles even into the most insignificant colony. She has done this only in poor India. The Viceroy and Sir Auckland Colvin both want to poopoh the idea of the existence of a famine fund. But none of them has been able to deny that an annual grant of a crore and-a-half of rupees was sanctioned for measures for the prevention of famines every year. What they call a grant natives call a fund. Thus the difference lies only in the use of different words. It is in reality a fund and not a grant. No Viceroy or Finance Minister brought this money from England. The grant did not exist before the imposition of the license tax.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

79. The same paper says that the sum of 62 lakhs of rupees, which is expected annually from the imposition of the income tax, could have been easily raised,

and at the same time no one would have felt any burden if the duty on salt had been increased by four annas per maund. Mr. Steele proved this clearly. But the official members of the Council have supported the Viceroy's proposal for the imposition of a direct tax. They have probably kept this source of income as a reserve fund upon which to draw in times of emergency.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

80. The same paper says that instead of imposing the income tax Government should have increased the duties both on English and country wine. Dr. Hunter may not out of pity for the native poor consent to the increase of the duties on wine, but the writer will not be sorry if wine thoroughly disappears from the country.

SAMAYA,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

81. The *Samya*, of the 18th January, says that a great portion of the public revenue is swallowed up every year by salaries of European officers of Govern-

ment. Not a pice of that portion is ever to return to India. The writer thinks that the scale of salaries of these and also of the highly-paid native officials should be fixed at a reduced scale, so that the poor low-paid officers may get quite enough to keep their body and soul together. The Amla Commission of yore raised the pay of amla from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20. But the prices have increased so greatly since then that they should now get Rs. 40. The Viceroy gets more than the Premier of England. The Magistrates of this country get more than those of England. Why should Europeans get larger pay here than in England? Is it because the country is larger? The writer thinks that the native officers also should receive

their pay on a reduced scale. The munsiffs are more educated than Deputy Magistrates, but they get less pay. Many clerks have been dismissed from the Postal Department very unjustly by Government, which would have done well if it had dismissed one or two big officers.

82. The *Samáchar Chandriká*, of the 18th January, says that income tax is going to be again imposed during the Viceroyalty of Lord Dufferin. Lord Dufferin

SAMACHAR CHAN-
DRIKA,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

The income tax.

has also said that the salt tax may also be increased. People of India will not have to suffer if the import duties are reimposed. But Government cannot do anything which will touch the pockets of Manchester merchants. Such selfishness in rulers is reprehensible.

83. The *Dainik*, of the 18th January, says that the Income Tax Bill provides for the taxation of joint Hindu families. But the section is not clear, and

DAINIK,
Jan. 18th, 1886.

The income tax.

so it gives rise to much apprehensions. If in a poor family there be five earning members, and if their joint income comes up to Rs. 42 a month, will the family be taxed?

Then, again, if the tax is not paid in time, people will have to pay twice as much. Provision has been made for the service of notices by post. Government wants to realise the tax with the least cost.

The tax on dwelling-houses should not be levied in towns where house property bears a heavy municipal taxation, in the same way as the zemindars are exempted from the income tax, because they pay so much in other ways.

Then, again, in villages house property has no annual letting value, for no one rent houses in villages, and so these should not be assessed.

84. The *Dainik*, of the 20th January, objects to the income tax being made payable only by those who reside in India and not by those who enjoy

DAINIK,
Jan. 20th, 1886.

The income tax.

Indian pay and Indian pension and Indian income in other countries. Lord Dufferin says that justice is the inhabitant neither of the east nor of the west. Why then should one alone of the two classes of men who enjoy Indian incomes should be taxed to the exclusion of the other. Four crores of Indian money is spent every year in paying pensions to those who reside out of India. Those who enjoy Indian incomes in other countries will not be taxed, but then why should those who enjoy the same in Native States pay the tax as provided in the Bill? This is justice indeed! Lord Dufferin appealed so fervently to justice only, because he had all these things in his mind. The writer asks in English: "Is this the justice in the name of which you have proposed the imposition of this tax?" This may appear good justice to Englishmen, but it is no justice in the eyes of natives.

85. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 20th January, says that Government may do without the imposition of new taxes if it adopts the recommendations made by the

URDU GUIDE,
Jan. 20th, 1886.

Reduction of expenditure.

Indian Daily News regarding the reduction of expenditure.

86. The *Samvád Purnachandrodaya*, of the 20th January, says that the sooner Sir Rivers Thompson retires the better. He has ruined the people of Bengal

SAMVAD PURNA-
CHANDRODAYA,
Jan. 20th, 1886.

Sir Rivers Thompson.

in various ways. Whoever becomes the ruler of Bengal has some glaring fault, and the way in which Sir Rivers has governed is not unknown to any. The writer thinks that civilians should no more be made rulers of Bengal. Bengal should be governed by statesmen sent directly from England in the same way as Madras and Bombay.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,
Jan. 22nd, 1886.

87. The *Samvād Prabhakār*, of the 22nd January, says that Lord Dufferin is unwilling to re-impose the import duties and to enhance the salt tax.

lest these press hard on the poor. The writer understands from His Lordship's unwillingness that the re-imposition will press hard on Manchester, will raise the price of clothes, and will compel poor natives to remain naked. The enhancement will press very hard on the poor. When the salt tax was high, the poor perhaps never saw what salt was, and now that it is low they are eating it by handfuls. But Lord Dufferin, or any of his successors as wise as himself, will enhance salt tax in times of war, or of great famine. The writer is glad that Lord Dufferin will spare the poor for the present, but the weapon of their destruction will be hanging on their head. But the question is who are to be considered poor? The writer thinks that people with Rs. 500 a year are poor. The imposition of direct taxation in India is impolitic and hateful. The Bill should be taken into careful consideration. It should not be passed in haste. Let the cotton duties be re-imposed; the poor will not suffer, and it will bring more to the treasury than the income tax. But why is this tax going to be imposed? To meet the cost of the Burmese war and of the annexation of Burmah. This may be true, but who told Government to go to Burmah? No one knows why troops were sent to Burmah, and why it has been swallowed up in the British Empire.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

CHARU VARTA,
Jan. 4th, 1886.

88. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 4th January, is glad to hear of the appointment of Mr. A. M. Bose as a member of the Legislative Council of Bengal. He

Mr. A. M. Bose.

is wise, moderate, and courageous.

NAVA MEDINI,
Jan. 16th, 1886.

89. The *Nava Medini*, of the 16th January, approves the appointment of Mr. A. M. Bose as a member of the Bengal Legislative Council. Mr. Bose is a

Mr. A. M. Bose.

patriot and a man of independent spirit. The intelligence of his appointment will please everybody high or low.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 8th, 1886.

90. The *Pratikár*, of the 8th January, hears that the Maharajah of Cashmere has come down to Calcutta to consult with the Viceroy about the administration of his State. The Resident has also come down with His Highness. The English are not favourably inclined towards Cashmere. This gives rise to various apprehensions in the minds of men. The new Maharajah is a high-minded and benevolent Prince. May God keep him all safe.

Cashmere.

BHARAT MIHIR,
Jan. 14th, 1886.

91. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 14th January, says that Government has decided upon appointing Nawab Abdul Luteef as Prime Minister of Bhopal. The

Bhopal.

Editor cannot say whether the Nawab possesses the qualifications which might fit him for the post of Premier in such a vast State as Bhopal, but it is somewhat re-assuring to find that, instead of introducing a European in that Mahomedan State, a Mahomedan gentleman is about to receive this high appointment.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVAD BAHIKA,
Jan. 7th, 1886.

92. The *Samvād Báhiká*, regrets that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Bengal, did not appoint a native of Orissa to fill the vacant seat in the Bengal Legislative Council caused by the resignation of Kumar Baikantha Nath De.

A Uriya member for the Bengal Legislative Council.

93. The *Utkal Dipika*, in citing the mismanagement of the Baldeb Jee endowment at Kendrapara, in the Cuttack district, requests Government to interfere generally with the mismanagement of other religious endowments in Orissa.

UTKAL DIPIKA,
Jan. 8th, 1886.

94. The same paper, in another article, makes unfavourable criticisms on the character of Kumar Baikantha Nath De, and concludes by remarking that the Joint-Inspector of Schools, Orissa Division, has some objectionable private relations with the former, which are in every way detrimental to the interests of the Educational Department in Orissa.

UTKAL DIPIKA.

95. The *Sebaka* writes the following in an article headed "the annexation of Upper Burmah."

SEBAKA,
Jan. 10th, 1886.

Annexation of Upper Burmah. The 1st January 1886 will be a memorable day in the history of British India. The following proclamation was quietly issued from the Government House, Calcutta, on that day, and a vast territory like Upper Burmah, with its unknown resources and boundaries, formed a part of British Empire. The text of the proclamation runs thus: "Fort William, the 1st January 1886. By command of the Queen-Empress, it is hereby notified that the territories formerly governed by King Theebaw will no longer be under his rule, but have become part of Her Majesty's dominions, and will, during Her Majesty's pleasure, be administered by such officers as the Viceroy and Governor-General of India may from time to time appoint. (Signed) Dufferin, Viceroy and Governor-General." Thus the house of Alompora that ruled over Burmah, Pegu, Tennaserim, and demanded tribute from Siam for about eighty years, was overthrown without a blow or a struggle.

It is not for us to judge the justice of the bold measure adopted by the British Government. Conquest and annexation are the necessary outcome of wily statemanship, and they are very common in the history of the world. The survival of the fittest is the only doctrine that applies to them, for a careful perusal of the world's history has convinced us that no nation can preserve its liberty if it cannot keep pace with its rivals in the onward march of the art of warfare. A nation that allowed foreign foes to march on to Mandalay without a single battle worth the name could never preserve its independence, and it must be attributed to their good luck that they have come under a Government remarkable for its justice and liberality.

The annexation will no doubt be looked at by different people from different points of view. To the Anglo-Indians, it will no doubt secure a large number of remunerative appointments, and the native subordinates of the Public Works Department in India will no doubt crowd into the conquered territory like swarms of bees. Trade and commerce will find a new impetus, and already speculations of a high and remunerative character have been broached by competent companies and corporations. To the tax-payers of India it brings grave thoughts; for who knows that serious complications may not arise near an unknown frontier, and thereby necessitate the inclusion of a heavy item of expenditure in the financial budget of India? India is already too large for a single Government. To add another territory to it is to increase the amount of its cares, anxieties, and troubles. We hope it may be found convenient hereafter to treat Burmah as a separate Government altogether.

The resources of Burmah have not been hitherto carefully examined, but from off-hand reports we are informed that it abounds in rich forests and mines. Should these be true, it will require capital to develop industry, and make Burmah profitable to the State. This will no doubt

ultimately cover all expenditure that may have to be incurred in establishing order and peace throughout the conquered kingdom, and in encouraging the arts of civilization within its limits; but we hope Government will not repeat those mistakes in its administration of Upper Burmah that it made in its administration of India, *i.e.*, it must not look upon the natives of the conquered kingdom with suspicion, take out the administration from native hands, introduce an unnecessarily large foreign element into the machinery of government, and overlook the claims, customs, and privileges of the people, recognised by the Native Governments of Burmah.

Dynasties rise and fall by the will of God. While politicians busy themselves with ways and means, wise men mark the hand of Providence in the passing events of the day. We accept the Burmese as our fellow-brethren, and we extend to them freely the rights of citizenship. Their lot has been cast with ours. There are many good traits in the Burmese character which will help us in the difficult task of reformation. Among these may be noted prominently the freedom which their women enjoy. It has thus been ruled that the Mongolian and the Aryan will mix with one another to fulfil the hidden purposes of Providence.

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Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 23rd January 1886.